

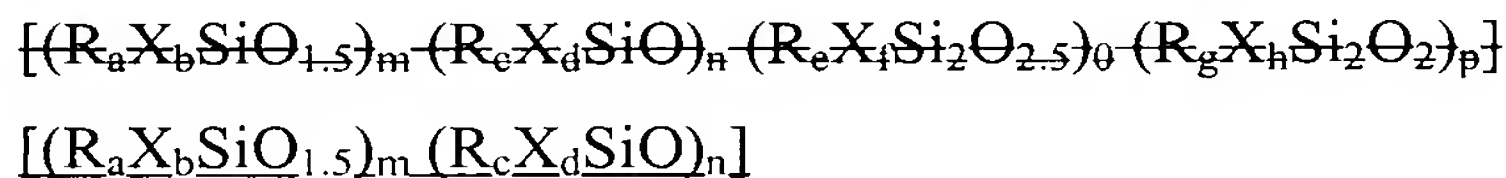
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A transparent masterbatch for improving the surface properties of thermoplastics, the transparent masterbatch comprising:

at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of a polyester, a copolyester, copolyamide, a cyclic olefin copolymer (COC), a polymethyl methacrylate, a polyphenylene ether, a polyurethane, a polysiloxane, a polysilane, a polytetrafluoroethylene, a polyoxymethylene, a polyvinyl chloride, a vinyl chloride copolymer, a polystyrene, an acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymers (ABS polymers), and a styrene-acrylonitrile copolymers (SAN polymers),

wherein said masterbatch comprises from 10% to 60% by weight of polyhedral oligomeric silicon-oxygen cluster units in accordance with the formula



wherein a, b, c = 0-1; d = 1-2; ~~e, f, g = 0-3; h = 1-4; m+n+o+p ≥ 4;~~ a+b = 1; c+d = 2; ~~e+f = 3; and g+h = 4; m+n ≥ 4; and m, n ≠ 0;~~

R = a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, a cycloalkyl, an alkenyl, a cycloalkenyl, an alkynyl, a cycloalkynyl group, or polymer unit, each substituted or unsubstituted, or further functionalized polyhedral oligomeric silicon-oxygen cluster units attached via a polymer unit or a bridging unit,

X = an oxy, a hydroxy, an alkoxy, a carboxy, a silyl, an alkylsilyl, an alkoxysilyl, a siloxy, an alkylsiloxy, an alkoxysiloxy, a silylalkyl, an alkoxysilylalkyl, an alkylsilylalkyl, a halogen, an epoxy, an ester, a fluoroalkyl, a isocyanate, a blocked isocyanate, an acrylate, a methacrylate, a nitrile, an amino, a phosphine or a polyether group or substituents of type R containing at least one such group of type X,

the substituents of type R being identical or different, and the substituents of type X being identical or different and containing from 40% to 90% by weight of ~~a thermoplastic carrier material~~ the at least one polymer.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The masterbatch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the silicon-oxygen cluster unit comprises not more than 1 ~~substituent~~ substituent of type X.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The masterbatch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic carrier material comprises further additives.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The masterbatch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic carrier material comprises at least one polymer of:

a polyester, a copolyester, a polymethyl methacrylate, and a copolyamide.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The masterbatch as claimed in claim 1, comprising from 20 to 50% by weight of polyhedral oligomeric silicon-oxygen cluster units, and from 50 to 80% by weight of the thermoplastic carrier material.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The masterbatch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyhedral oligomeric silicon-oxygen cluster unit has a molecular size of not more than 100 nm.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): A process for preparing a transparent thermoplastic, which comprises mixing one part by weight of the masterbatch of claim 1 into from 3 to 11 parts by weight of a further thermoplastic polymer mechanically without solvent at a temperature of at least 50°C.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A transparent thermoplastic prepared by a process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the concentration of the polyhedral oligomeric silicon-oxygen cluster units is not more than 5% by weight.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The transparent thermoplastic as claimed in claim 8, wherein the scratch resistance is higher than that of the plain thermoplastic.

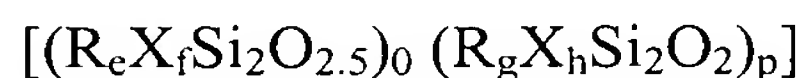
Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The transparent thermoplastic as claimed in claim 8, wherein the glass transition temperature is at least 5% higher than that of the plain thermoplastic.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The transparent thermoplastic as claimed in claim 8, having a soft, velvety, "velour like" tactility.

Claim 12 (New): A transparent masterbatch for improving the surface properties of thermoplastics, the transparent masterbatch comprising:

at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of a polyester, a copolyester, copolyamide, a cyclic olefin copolymer (COC), a polymethyl methacrylate, a polyphenylene ether, a polyurethane, a polysiloxane, a polysilane, a polytetrafluoroethylene, a polyoxymethylene, a polyvinyl chloride, a vinyl chloride copolymer, a polystyrene, an acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymers (ABS polymers), and a styrene-acrylonitrile copolymers (SAN polymers),

wherein said masterbatch comprises from 10% to 60% by weight of polyhedral oligomeric silicon-oxygen cluster units in accordance with the formula



wherein e, f, g = 0-3; h = 1-4; e+f = 3; g+h = 4; o+p ≥ 4; and o, p ≠ 0;

R = a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, a cycloalkyl, an alkenyl, a cycloalkenyl, an alkynyl, a cycloalkynyl group, or polymer unit, each substituted or unsubstituted, or further functionalized polyhedral oligomeric silicon-oxygen cluster units attached via a polymer unit or a bridging unit,

X = an oxy, a hydroxy, an alkoxy, a carboxy, a silyl, an alkylsilyl, an alkoxysilyl, a siloxy, an alkylsiloxy, an alkoxysiloxy, a silylalkyl, an alkoxysilylalkyl, an alkylsilylalkyl, a halogen, an epoxy, an ester, a fluoroalkyl, a isocyanate, a blocked isocyanate, an acrylate, a methacrylate, a nitrile, an amino, a phosphine or a polyether group or substituents of type R containing at least one such group of type X,

the substituents of type R being identical or different, and the substituents of type X being identical or different and containing from 40% to 90% by weight of the at least one polymer.

Claim 13 (New): The masterbatch as claimed in claim 12, wherein the silicon-oxygen cluster unit comprises not more than 1 substituent of type X.

Claim 14 (New): The masterbatch as claimed in claim 12, wherein the thermoplastic carrier material comprises at least one polymer of:

a polyester, a copolyester, a polymethyl methacrylate, and a copolyamide.

Claim 15 (New): The masterbatch as claimed in claim 12, comprising from 20 to 50% by weight of polyhedral oligomeric silicon-oxygen cluster units, and from 50 to 80% by weight of the thermoplastic carrier material.

Claim 16 (New): The masterbatch as claimed in claim 12, wherein the polyhedral oligomeric silicon-oxygen cluster unit has a molecular size of not more than 100 nm.